

1 second laser diode has ray fans extending across the full  
2 aperture of said lens, and

3 diffractive means carried by said single element  
4 objective lens, said diffractive means providing sufficient  
5 aspheric surface power for spherical aberration correction and  
6 providing correction for spherochromatism.

7  
8 7. (amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said first  
9 surface is located closer to said disk support and drive means  
10 than said second surface and [further comprising] said dif-  
11 fractive means is carried by said second surface[, said dif-  
12 fractive means providing sufficient aspheric surface power for  
13 spherical aberration correction and providing correction for  
14 spherochromatism].

15 REMARKS

16 Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 remain in the application. Claims  
17 5, 9, 11 and 12 have been cancelled.

18 With respect to the objection made by the Examiner under  
19 35 U.S.C. § 112 to the phrase "cover plate" appearing at lines 5  
20 and 6 of claim 1 and in lines 5 and 6 of claim 6, applicants have  
21 substituted the phrase --- disk substrate --. As used in the  
22 specification and claims as originally filed, applicants clearly  
23 used the phrase "cover plate" synonymously with the disk sub-  
24 strate. The phrase "disk substrate" is more commonly used in  
25 the art and applicants agree that term is more appropriately used  
26 in claims 1 and 6.

1 Applicants note the allowable subject matter indicated in  
2 the Office action. Claim 1 has been amended to include the  
3 diffractive means but without specifying on which of the lens  
4 surfaces the diffractive means is carried. Applicants believe  
5 that claim 1 as amended fairly includes the allowable subject  
6 matter indicated in the Examiner's statement of allowable subject  
7 matter. Claims 2-4 have simply been amended to avoid repetition  
8 of the language describing the function of the diffractive means  
9 now included in amended claim 1.

10 Claim 6 has similarly been amended to include the concept  
11 of the diffractive means from claim 7, and claim 7 has been  
12 amended somewhat to avoid repetition of the language now included  
13 in amended claim 6. Claims 8 and 10 remain in the application  
14 without amendment.

15 Applicants wish to call the Examiner's attention to the  
16 enclosed Information Disclosure Statement submitted simul-  
17 taneously with this amendment. The enclosed Information Disclo-  
18 sure Statement transmits for review the search results in the  
19 corresponding PCT application, which search was conducted by the  
20 European Patent Office. The undersigned submits that, for  
21 reasons stated in the attached Information Disclosure Statement,  
22 the claims as amended hereby are patentably distinct over the  
23 prior art cited by the EPO.

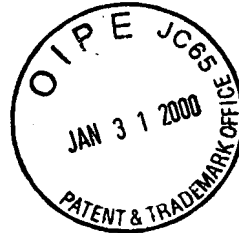
24 Applicants also wish to call to the Examiner's attention  
25 that twelve sheets of formal drawings were submitted to the  
26 Patent Office under date of July 8, 1999. The return postcard

1 indicates that the Patent Office received the formal drawings on  
2 July 12, 1999. However, applicants are enclosing another set of  
3 twelve sheets of formal drawings.  
4

5 Respectfully submitted,

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22 Jan. 25, 2000

23 Reg. No. 24,982 of  
24 Eckhoff, Hoppe, Slick, Mitchell & Anderson

25 Bruce H. Johnsonbaugh  
26 Signature

1/25/2000  
Date